

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are now pending in the application. Of these claims, Claims 27-41 have been withdrawn. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action states that it is unclear whether the interfacial layer is an additional layer, or the ceramic layer. Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are proper inasmuch as the claims contain the “interfacial barrier laminate” limitation, which is inherently formed of a plurality of layers. In this regard, the “interfacial layer” is one of these layers.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dearnaley et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,087,025). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner’s attention is directed to amended independent Claims 1 and 15. These claims contain the limitation that the interfacial barrier laminate has a ceramic layer which is disposed adjacent to the substrate. Applicants note that the Dearnaley reference discloses applying silicon or germanium next to the co/metal alloy substrate.

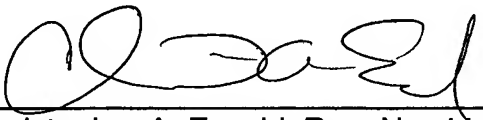
The reference does not teach Applicants' invention as claimed and, as such, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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